

**CATAWBA COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
ANNEX H
VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUADS**

I. PURPOSE

This annex describes the Volunteer Rescue Squads activities to ensure the safety of life within the County during emergency situations.

II. SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

A: Situation

Life saving operations become daily problems faced by Volunteer Rescue Squad personnel. Several hazards become more significant during emergency situations such as fire or coming in contact with radioactive, toxic, explosive, medical waste and other hazardous during any emergency or non emergency response as well as Medical or Technical Rescue Operations.

B: Assumptions

Existing Rescue personnel and equipment will be able to cope with most emergency situations through the use of existing mutual aid agreements. When additional support is required, assistance can be obtained from surrounding agencies as well as state and federal agencies.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. During emergencies the Volunteer Rescue Squads must be prepared to support each other utilizing available expertise, equipment and manpower.
- B. In an emergency which requires a number of emergency services (eg. EMS, fire, rescue, law enforcement, ect.) to respond, all units, regardless of service, will be coordinated by an incident commander.
- C. If an emergency occurs one or all six Volunteer Rescue Squads will be called upon by the County Emergency Manager to assist in the following:
 - Emergency Medical Care
 - Motor Vehicle Accidents
 - Confined Space Accidents
 - Trench Accidents
 - Structural Collapse
 - Industrial Accidents
 - Water Accidents
 - Locating of Missing, Lost or Drowned individuals

- D. The Volunteer Rescue Squad will be the lead agency in the emergencies that are listed above with exception of Emergency Medical Care. Catawba County EMS is the lead agency in providing emergency medical care on the scene with rescue providing back up EMS services to the level in which they are certified.
- E. Rescue squads will serve as support agencies in the event of a hazardous material or radiological incident for assistance in decontamination and site control.

IV. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

- A. Direction and Control of local volunteer Rescue Squads is exercised by the Commander of the Catawba County Rescue Association.
- B. Coordination of Rescue activities in the event of an emergency/disaster will occur between the County Emergency Manager and the Commander of the Catawba County Rescue Association utilizing mutual aid agreements developed with local jurisdictions.
- C. Upon activation, the Commander of the Catawba County Rescue Association, or his/her appointee, will direct Rescue operations from the COUNTY EOC.

V: CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

- A. Commander of the Catawba County Rescue Association
- B. Vice-Commander of the Catawba County Rescue Association
- C. Secretary of the Catawba County Rescue Association